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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Application of:

Shinichi SHIMA

Application No.: 09/986,958

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, METHOD)
OF MANUFACTURING SEMI-
CONDUCTOR DEVICES, SEMI-
CONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING
PLANT, METHOD OF MAINTAIN-
ING EXPOSURE APPARATUS, AND
POSITION DETECTOR

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

January 17, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document nos. 8-334695, 2000-195772, and 2001-27727 are discussed on page 4 of the subject application.

Japanese patent document no. 9-219354 is discussed on pages 11 and 12 of the subject application, and corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,859,707.

Japanese patent document no. 2001-15405 is discussed on pages 5 and 17 of the subject application.

Japanese patent document no. 11-345701 is discussed on pages 13 and 17 of the subject application.

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Japanese patent document no. 2000-91219 is discussed on page 13 of the subject application.

Japanese patent document no. 4-352608 is discussed on pages 14 and 19 of the subject application.

Japanese patent document no. 2001-27727 corresponds to European patent document 1 069 448.

Japanese patent document no. 2000-195772 corresponds to WO 99/52004.

Japanese patent document no. 8-334695 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,689,377.

Japanese patent document no. 11-219900 is discussed on page 52 of the subject application and corresponds to WO 99/26278.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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